



# Merritt Information Item

FLOURISH UNDER THE SUN

**To:** Sean Smith, Chief Administrative Officer

**From:** Don McArthur, Planning Manager

**Date:** October 27, 2020

**Subject:** Official Community Plan Update – Engagement Process

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***This is provided as information, and no resolution is required. Council may make a motion to direct staff to take particular action if they wish.***

The engagement phase of the Official Community Plan Update project is well underway. Four OCP webinars were held during the week of October 5 – 9, on the topics of Economic Development & Business, Land Use & Housing, Infrastructure & Climate Change, and Poverty Reduction & Food Security. Videos of the webinars are posted on the City website.

Additionally, City staff attended the Farmer's Market on Saturday, October 10, providing an opportunity for residents to ask OCP related questions.

Neighbourhood specific workshops will be held in November. Due to COVID-19, it is likely those sessions will need to be online webinars.

A flyer will be delivered to residents in the upcoming utility bill mailout. The flyer will detail upcoming engagement opportunities.

An online survey will launch on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The link to the survey will be located on the dedicated OCP webpage (<https://www.merritt.ca/ocp>) and advertised on social media and in local media publications.

Several planned events have been postponed due to COVID-19. To ensure the safety of residents and consultants who would be travelling from various communities, we have limited in-person events during the second wave of the pandemic. Staff are working with the consultants on a plan to reach residents who are unable to access online resources. Details on revised workshop dates and other engagement opportunities will be provided in the near future.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Don McArthur**  
**Planning and Development Services Manager**